

The Better Buildings Neighborhood View

How energy efficiency is improving lives, neighborhoods, and the economy

From the U.S. Department
of Energy Better Buildings
Neighborhood Program

June 2012



In This Issue

Last Chance to Register for the Residential Energy
Efficiency Solutions Conference
Building a Brighter Future
Building a Better Workforce
Energy Efficiency Tools
Reports and Studies

"For people who don't have the time or the wherewithal or the understanding to begin to initiate this [home energy upgrade] process, I feel like they've given us so much."

-Dan Potash,
Bedford-Katonah Homeowner
who participated in an
energy upgrade through
Energize New York

Consumer Energy Tip

Make your laundry routine more energy efficient by washing clothes in cold water with detergent specifically made for cold water. Take advantage of the warm summer sun by air drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks.

Innovation Nation

The Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance is using [Pinterest](#), a social media content sharing site, to exchange water conservation data, efficient household tips,

Last Chance to Register for the Residential Energy Efficiency Solutions Conference

The [Residential Energy Efficiency Solutions: From Innovation to Market Transformation](#) conference will be a great opportunity for administrators and implementers of residential energy efficiency programs to accelerate success. During this three-day event, attendees will exchange ideas, explore innovative approaches, and learn best practices for driving demand, financing, engaging business partners, creating sustainable business models, and developing strategies for success. In addition, three esteemed keynote speakers will offer insights on the important role of residential energy efficiency programs for achieving broader national goals and share successes in transforming new markets:

- Dr. Kathleen Hogan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, U.S. Energy Department
- Richard Kauffman, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Energy Department
- Nancy Welsh, Founder and CEO, Builders of Hope

[View the latest agenda](#) (PDF) for details on sessions and networking opportunities. The registration deadline is next Friday, June 29, 2012, so [register soon](#) to secure your spot at this exciting, informative event.

Building a Brighter Future

Phoenix Overcomes Barriers and Energizes Homeowners to Make Upgrades

[Energize Phoenix](#) is saving energy and money for homeowners, generating jobs, and transforming a diverse array of neighborhoods along a 10-mile stretch of the city's light rail line. Energize Phoenix's residential programs are open to homeowners of all income levels, but low-to-moderate income



and even interior decorating ideas with its customers through images.



homeowners may realize greater benefits from energy efficiency upgrades because their homes often have older, inefficient equipment. Because upfront costs can deter low-to-moderate income homeowners from making upgrades, Energize Phoenix developed two programs to specifically address energy efficiency with this audience. [Read on](#) to learn about Energize Phoenix's approach to helping low-to-moderate income homeowners achieve energy efficiency.

Energize Phoenix is spreading energy efficiency along a 10-mile corridor of homes and businesses.

Related Events

Better Buildings Summit for State and Local Communities
June 26–27, 2012
Denver, CO

Residential Energy Efficiency Solutions: From Innovation to Market Transformation
June 9–11, 2012
Arlington, VA

2012 ACEEE Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings
August 12–17, 2012
Pacific Grove, CA

Affordable Comfort Institute Mid Atlantic Home Performance Conference 2012
October 1–2, 2012
Pittsburgh, PA

Affordable Comfort Institute New England Home Performance Conference 2012
October 16–17, 2012
Springfield, MA

Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference
November 12–14, 2012
Sacramento, CA

Building a Better Workforce

Building Performance Institute (BPI) Pilot Certifications Now Open

This month, energy efficiency professionals can register for [pilot exams](#) for four new BPI Home Energy Professional certifications. These certifications cover common energy upgrade job classifications: energy auditor, retrofit installer, crew leader, and quality control inspector. The results of these pilot written and field exams will be used to set passing scores for the national exams, which BPI expects to roll out in fall 2012. If you missed the informational webinars, you can still [learn more](#) about the certifications, including the prerequisites and example exam questions.

Energy Efficiency Tools

MyEnergyGateway.org Offers Energy Education and Career Resources

The Association of Energy Services Professionals website, myenergygateway.org, provides resources for students and workers looking to expand their opportunities and pursue a career in the energy efficiency upgrade industry. The website provides a thorough description of energy career options, sortable by discipline, and includes a salary range for these options. It also provides a database of related degrees and internships along with information on financial aid and scholarships to fund these opportunities. Other [resources](#) include a blog on industry news and lists of energy associations, government organizations, and industry publications. The website also uses a Facebook page to connect individuals with professionals working in their field of interest. [Visit the site](#) and share this great set of resources with energy efficiency professionals in your program.

Reports and Studies

New Financing Methods Facilitate Energy Efficiency Upgrades in Commercial Buildings

A new white paper, "[Energy Efficiency Retrofit Financing Options for the Commercial Real Estate Market](#)," evaluates a variety of financing methods available to support energy efficiency upgrades for commercial buildings. As the commercial real estate industry moves from the installation of lower-cost, short-payback energy efficiency improvements to longer-term, more capital-intensive projects, innovative financing mechanisms can help address the challenges associated with commercial properties. This paper covers the benefits and potential obstacles to internal and debt financing, lease agreements, energy services company financing, energy service agreements, property assessed clean energy (PACE) programs, and other financing mechanisms and describes an emerging best practice for commercial building upgrades. [Read the paper](#) to learn about opportunities to finance commercial building upgrades in your area.

Compare and Improve Your State Energy Efficiency Score

A new report from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) identifies common barriers to creating and advancing state energy efficiency initiatives and investigates possible solutions to these challenges. The report, entitled "[Opportunity Knocks: Examining Low-Ranking States in the State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#)," is based on numerous interviews with stakeholders in states that ranked in the bottom 10 of ACEEE's 2011 [State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#). It describes low-cost, flexible recommendations that every state can use to promote energy conservation programs, fuel economic development, improve local environmental conditions, and enhance energy security. [Read the full report](#) to see if any of these opportunities are right for your state.

Share the Savings

Forward this email to your friends or encourage them to sign up to receive each issue. Send email addresses to [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program Support](#).

Have something you'd like to contribute to the *Better Buildings Neighborhood View*? Send an email to [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program Support](#) to submit your idea.

You are receiving this email from the U.S. Energy Department's Better Buildings Neighborhood Program. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact [Better Buildings Neighborhood Program Support](#).

